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RURAL DISTRICT OF SEISDON
(STAFFORDSHIRE)



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1956

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SEISDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE (December, 1956)

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR R. B. WILLIAMS

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. C. EDWARDS

COUNCILLORS C. P. BOLLAND

W. BOLLAND

H. BONSER

J. W. BROADBENT

MRS. C. DORE

MRS. C. GOULD

P. N. C. HEATH

A. E. HUGHES

J. B. S. HUGHES

J. A. JEFFRIES

C. KEMP

W. LAMB

MISS E. E. LAURIE

N. H. A. PARSONS

E. J. NICKLIN

H. E. WEAVER

G. W. MUNDAY, J.P. (Chairman of the Council)

MRS. M. J. FLETCHER, J.P. (Vice-Chairman of the Council).

SEISDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

<i>Name</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>	<i>Duties</i>
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Medical Officer of Health:

ALAN R. KENNEDY, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	(1) Medical Officer of Health (Seisdon R.D.C.) for 4/11ths of the week ; (2) Assistant County M.O. (M. & C.W.), School M.O., and general duties, (Staffordshire County Council) for 7/11ths of the week.
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Chief P.H. Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

G. V. R. LEE	M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. Cert. Meat and Food Inspector	Chief Public Health Inspec- tor; Duties as detailed in Sanitary Officers Order ; Shops Acts; Petroleum Acts; Cleansing.
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Mr. G. V. R. Lee has resigned, as from April 3rd, 1957.

Mr. E. H. ROBERTS, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I., is appointed as from June 17th, 1957.

Additional P.H. Inspector:

H. F. ROBINSON	C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H., Cert. Meat and Food Inspector	Additional Public Health Inspector; Duties as detailed in Sanitary Officers Order; Shops Acts; Petroleum Acts; Cleansing.
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Administrative Assistant:

D. NALLY

Clerk:

P. NORTH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1956

To the Chairman and Members of the Seisdon Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1956.

This Report is drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health in their Circular 17/55. The Report follows the same general lines as the previous year with special paragraphs in the appropriate section, on the problems which have particularly concerned your Public Health Committee in the year. Comparative tables on statistics are given in the related Sections of the Report.

The Report deals with Public Health subjects in **Sections** as follows:—

- A** Statistics affecting the district.
- B** General Provision of Health Services in the district.
- C** Sanitary accommodation of the district.
- D** Housing in the district.
- E** Inspection and supervision of food.
- F** Prevalence of, and control over, infectious diseases.
- G** Tuberculosis.
- H** Other matters.

and it concludes with the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector on those matters which fall within his sphere of activities.

The Health of the Rural District has in general continued to be maintained at a highly satisfactory level.

Number of Births:—

The Registrar General's figures for population—Seisdon R.D.C.			Total Number of Births in the year		Number of houses in Seisdon (1st April)
June, 1951	..	22,322	1951	343	6,388
June, 1952	..	22,430	1952	335	6,588
June, 1953	..	23,630	1953	364	6,819
June, 1954	..	24,370	1954	413	7,271
June, 1955	..	26,220	1955	439	7,906
June, 1956	..	28,070	1956	511	8,981
June, 1957	..				9,477

The above figures emphasize the rapid growth which has taken place and is still taking place in our R.D. There are 50% more births taking place in our R.D. than in 1951, and the number of births was one-sixth greater in 1956 than it was in 1955.

The Infantile Mortality Rate of the Rural District is much higher this year. It is associated with a higher number of births and it seems to be related to a higher number of premature births, many of these babies not surviving the first week of life. Two thirds of the infant deaths were in the first week of life. Of the infants who survived the first month of life the following figures apply for recent years:—

1956	—	3	died	between	age	1	month	and	1	year
1955	—	1	„	„	„	1	„	„	1	„
1954	—	3	„	„	„	1	„	„	1	„
1953	—	1	„	„	„	1	„	„	1	„
1952	—	1	„	„	„	1	„	„	1	„

These latter are encouraging figures.

It is pleasing to note the decreasing number of cases of Whooping Cough in the Rural District and the concomitant increase in the number of children immunised against Whooping Cough (Section F).

The high numbers of male deaths from Cancer of the Lung are to be noted—*i.e.* 13 deaths. This is a large increase on last year's figures of 8 male deaths and 1 female death from the same cause, and is much higher than the average numbers for the last five years.

The problems of Sewage Disposal, Detergents and Water Supplies affect the Rural District a good deal in that we are the receiving ground for the problem. Within our 42,000 acres there are 5 square miles of sewage farms belonging to 5 major Local Authorities of the Black Country. Certain toxic and metallic substances are put out on the land of the sewage farms by Local Authorities, *e.g.*, complex cyanides, gas liquors or phenols, chromates, nickel, zinc, copper and cadmium compounds. These slow down the normal purification process of the land. As a long term risk it does seem to carry some risk that such toxic substance should be put on farm land, especially where drinking water is abstracted from such land at depths of 250—600 feet. Several highly important Water Works coincide with the location of the sewage farms. Research is being done on this subject by various Scientific Groups. One of the valuable results that could come from their deliberations would be publication of an absolute and official maximum concentration for each of these toxic compounds both separately and in combination. There should be prescribed official limits. It is fortunate that “faults” of rock are not part of the characteristics of our district. Plain simple sewage which was useful to farm land fifty to sixty years ago, has now altered in composition considerably. The position is aggravated by the increased population of the Black Country in recent years, and by the much increased use of water by Industry and increased volume of trade wastes.

A second aspect of this problem relates to Detergents. They are not destroyed in sewage works. The part of the detergent which causes foam (and which has no other useful purpose) is unaltered by transit through the sewage works and spreads itself in the canals and streams downstream. The foam serves to protect germs from the normal purification process of a sewage works and it may possibly help to keep infection "in being" in the receiving stream. One should remember in this context that the "germs" of poliomyelitis and of paratyphoid can be found at most times (and especially in the summer and autumn) in the sewage of big towns and cities. The protection of detergent foam is a possible menace. Detergents are *not* antiseptics. One would conclude that as a first step the foaming element in detergents should be forbidden by central legislation.

Detergents as a whole retard purification at sewage works and increase costs of sewage works. They make more difficult the extraction of pure water for drinking at any point downstream; and indeed detergents may be present in very small percentages in drinking water which may be abstracted downstream. Detergents do their damage to fish, streams, and sewage plants by taking up oxygen which is normally present in the water, and by not permitting the oxygen to be normally used.

The private and Local Authority "overspill" of communities coming to live in proximity to sewage farms causes local nuisance by smells, etc., and presages the need for a systematic replacement of sewage farms in part by modern sewage disposal units and certainly where overloading of a sewage farm is occurring.

Finally on this subject it is apparent that bathing and paddling in canals, rivers and streams causes considerable risk of infection to children and such bathing, etc., should be actively forbidden at every occasion. An innocent looking running stream may be receiving infection upstream. The only safe bathing place is a pool which is continuously chlorinated, and which is subject to bacteriological testing, and which conforms to the Ministry of Health standards in its results therefrom.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS. Five Seisdon residents were killed in road accidents. Three males aged 22, 24 and 21 years and two females aged 50 and 60 years died as a result of the accidents. In the case of four out of the five accidents a motor cycle was involved.

MASS X-RAY. My particular thanks are due to Dr. J. T. Hutchinson who brought his Mass X-Ray Unit from Wolverhampton New Cross Hospital to the main centres of population in the Rural District Council in July, 1956.

Special Reports were submitted to the R.D.C. on the following subjects:—

1. Royal Society of Health Conference at Blackpool.
2. The Public Health aspects of the Codsall Sewerage Scheme.
3. The Mass X-Ray Survey of July, 1956.
4. The list of Category 5 Houses in October, 1956.
5. The Clean Air Act in November, 1956.

Dr. A. R. Kennedy attended the Conference of the Royal Society of Health (Blackpool) April 23rd—27th, 1956.

Mr. Lee attended the Conference of the Public Health Inspectors' Association (Bournemouth) 18th—21st September, 1956.

Mr. Nally attended the Conference of the Institute of Public Cleansing (Eastbourne) 11th—15th June, 1956.

Mr. G. V. R. Lee was absent from duties (owing to illness) for eight weeks in October—November, 1956, and in his absence, Mr. H. R. Robinson carried out all duties of the P.H. Inspector by himself.

I take this opportunity of thanking various persons for their co-operation and advice during the past year and record particular appreciation of the members of the Public Health Committee, Mr. A. R. Baskett, Clerk and Chief Financial Officer of the Rural District Council, and Mr. F. Bagley, Engineer and Surveyor to the Rural District Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

ALAN R. KENNEDY.

July, 1957.

Section A

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1956

Area: 41,990 acres, *i.e.*, 65 square miles.

Population: 28,070 Registrar General's estimated mid-year 1956 population.

Number of Inhabited Houses: 8,981 at 1st April, 1956.

Number of Council Houses: 2,374 at 31st March, 1957.

Sum represented by a penny rate: (1956-57)—£1,219.

Rateable Value: £304,754. 1956/57.

General Rate: 12/10d., 1956/57.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:				Male	Female	Total	England & Wales per 1,000
Total	..	..	..	269	242	511	
Legitimate	..	..	..	264	237	501	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	5	5	10	46
Birth Rate per 1,000 population				..	..	18.2	
Comparability Factor				..	..	0.94	
Standardised Birth Rate				..	..	17.11	15.7

Still Births:				Male	Female	Total	England & Wales
Total	..	..	..	3	4	7	
Legitimate	..	..	..	3	4	7	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	0	0	0	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Births				..	..	13.7	23.0

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:				Male	Female	Total	England & Wales
Total	..	..	..	11	4	15	
Legitimate	..	..	..	11	4	15	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	0	0	0	
Per 1,000 related Live Births				Seisdon		England & Wales	
				15.9	29.3	17.3	16.9
				1955	1956	1955	1956

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:				Male	Female	Total
Total	..	..	..	12	6	18
Legitimate	..	..	..	12	6	18
Illegitimate	..	..	..	0	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:				Seisdon R.D.C.			Average for Staffs. C.C.			England and Wales		
				1954	1955	1956	1953	1954	1955	1954	1955	1956
All Infants per 1,000 live births				16.9	18.2	35.2	32	29	27	25.5	24.9	23.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				14.9	18.8	35.9	31	28	27			
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births				83	Nil	Nil	49	42	47			

Deaths (at all ages):	1956 Seisdon	1954 Eng. & Wales	1955 Eng. & Wales	1956 Eng. & Wales
Total: 268. Males: 146. Females: 122.				
Death Rate per 1,000 population ..	9.52			
Comparability Factor	1.30			
Standardised Death Rate	12.38	11.3	11.7	11.7
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Child-birth	Nil			
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	50		2,056 per million	
Including—				
Deaths from Carcinoma (Cancer) of the Lung—Males	463 per million		693 per million	726 per million
Deaths from Carcinoma (Cancer) of the Lung—Females	Nil		106 per million	111 per million
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil			
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil			
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under 2 years old)	Nil			
Deaths from Tuberculosis of the Lungs	4			
Deaths from other Tuberculosis Diseases	Nil			
Tuberculosis Death Rate (Respiratory): per million of population	142	160	131 per million	109
Tuberculosis Death Rate (Non-Respiratory) TB): per million of population..	Nil	19	15 per million	12
Deaths from Motor Vehicle Accidents (Seisdon residents)	5			
Deaths from Other Accidents	5			
Live births exceeded total deaths by ..	243			

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1956

						M.	F.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..		3	1
Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..		—	—
Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..		—	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..		—	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..		—	—
Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..		—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..		—	—
Measles	..	..	..	..		—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..		—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..		6	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	..	..	..	..		13	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..		—	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..		—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..		14	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..		1	1
Diabetes	..	..	..	..		—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..		9	19
Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..		20	12
Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..		2	4
Other heart disease	..	..	..	..		14	23
Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..		3	3
Influenza	..	..	..	..		1	—
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..		3	4
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..		9	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..		2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..		3	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..		1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..		2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..		4	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..		—	—
Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..		4	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..		23	20
Motor Vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..		3	2
All other accidents	..	..	..	..		3	2
Suicide	..	..	..	..		3	1
Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..		—	—
						<hr/> 146	<hr/> 122

BIRTH RATES

	SEISDON		England and Wales
Year	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate
1947	400	19.2	20.5
1948	358	16.4	17.9
1949	349	15.9	16.7
1950	339	15.5	15.8
1951	343	15.4	15.5
1952	335	14.9	15.3
1953	364	15.4	15.5
1954	413	17.4	15.2
1955	439	17.2	15.0
1956	511	17.11	15.7

DEATH RATES

	SEISDON			England and Wales
Year	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Standardised Death Rate	Death Rate
1947	213	10.2		12.0
1948	196	9.0		10.8
1949	212	10.4		11.7
1950	202	9.0		11.6
1951	254	11.4		12.5
1952	200	9.6		11.3
1953	226	9.6	10.3	11.4
1954	217	8.9	9.4	11.3
1955	252	9.6	10.2	11.7
1956	268	9.5	12.38	11.7

LOCALITY-DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(excluding Tuberculosis) notified in 1956

Disease	TOTAL	Bobington	Codsall	Enville	Himley	Kinver	Lower Penn	Pattingham	Patshull	Seisdon and Trysull	Swindon	Wombourn	Wrottesley
Scarlet Fever	12	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	5	1
Whooping Cough ..	21	-	6	3	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	5	2
Measles	21	-	8	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	9	2
Acute Pneumonia ..	16	-	3	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	3	6
Poliomyelitis Paralytic ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

AGE-GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (excluding Tuberculosis) notified in 1956

Disease	Total all Ages	At all ages		Un- der 1 year	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 25 yrs.	25 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	65 to 75 yrs.	75 to 85 yrs.	85 and over
		M	F													
Scarlet Fever	12	5	7	-	-	2	-	2	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	21	9	12	3	3	-	2	6	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	21	10	11	2	3	2	5	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	16	10	6	-	1	1	-	4	1	-	-	3	5	1	-	-
Poliomylitis Paralytic ..	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Dysentery	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1956

Nett Deaths from causes stated at various ages under one year of age:

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under one month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total Deaths under one year
Cerebral Spastic Paralysis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Misadventure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Congenital Malformation of Brain	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Heart Disease	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	6	1	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
Birth Injury	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Spina Bifida	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Intestinal Obstruction ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformation of Lungs	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Fibrocystic disease of the pancreas	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ..	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	18

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

Year	SEISDON			England and Wales Rate per 1,000 Births
	Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	
1946	367	11	30.0	43
1947	400	9	22.5	41
1948	358	11	32.5	34
1949	349	13	37.6	32
1950	339	7	20.6	29
1951	343	9	26.2	30
1952	335	4	11.9	28
1953	364	7	19.2	26.8
1954	413	7	16.9	25.5
1955	439	8	18.2	24.9
1956	511	18	35.2	23.8

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

The Medical Officer of Health holds office in virtue of a joint appointment by Staffordshire County Council and Seisdon Rural District Council, apportionment of his time and services to the Rural District being based on the population.

The Public Health Inspectors are both full-time officers, and are fully qualified Meat and Food Inspectors. The Chief Public Health Inspector is also the Cleansing Superintendent.

In accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act, Health Services are provided by the Local Health Authority, namely the Staffordshire County Council, the organisation and administration being in the hands of the County Medical Officer of Health. Certain responsibilities are delegated to the "Area Health Authority" and the "Area Medical Officer". In the Seisdon Rural District Council, the No. 7 Area Health Authority at Brierley Hill is immediately responsible for and administers:—

- (a) Health Centres.
- (b) Care of Mothers and Young Children.
- (c) Midwifery.
- (d) Health Visiting.
- (e) Home Nursing.
- (f) Vaccination and Immunisation.
- (g) Ambulance Service.
- (h) Prevention of illness, care and after care.
- (i) Domestic Help.

The Health Visitors, four in number, are as stated, under the immediate direction of the Area Health Authority.

Hospitals:

As regards the General Hospital and Specialist Services, the administration is vested in the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

The Hospitals and Out-patient Departments available, and easily accessible to your District are those of Stourbridge, Wordsley, Dudley, Wolverhampton and Birmingham. An Orthopaedic Convalescent Hospital, being part of Wolverhampton Royal Hospital, is situated at Patshull within the Rural District.

Infectious Diseases:

The Infectious Diseases Hospitals are under the control of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. Cases go to Moxley Hospital, or to Stallings Lane Hospital, Kingswinford, or to the Isolation Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Ambulance Service:

This Service is provided by the Staffordshire County Council from stations at Kingswinford and Tettenhall.

Tuberculosis:

Dispensaries are situated at Wolverhampton and Dudley and various Sanatoria are available. Prestwood, Kinver and Himley Sanatoria are situated within the Rural District.

Maternity Cases are provided for by:

- (a) New Cross Hospital.
- (b) Wordsley Hospital.
- (c) Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home, Dudley.
- (d) Birmingham Hospitals.

Laboratory Facilities:

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Stafford. Speedy delivery to the Laboratory of any pathological specimens is ensured by motor-cycle transport over the 22 miles from Seisdon to Stafford. Efforts are made to concentrate deliveries on one or two days a week.

Clinics:

School Clinics	Orthopaedic Clinics
Defective Vision Clinics	Dental Clinics
Infant Welfare Clinics	Ante Natal Clinics
Immunisation Clinics	Speech Therapy Clinics

are provided by the Staffs. C.C. at main centres of population in or very near the District, *e.g.*, at Codsall, Wombourn, Kinver, Bobbington, Kingswinford and Brierley Hill.

Committees:

The SEISDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL Committees which are concerned with matters of Public Health are:

- (1) The Public Health Committee;
- (2) The Housing Committee;
- (3) The Plans Inspection Committee.

Section C (I)

There is estimated to exist in the Rural District:—
about 436 Cesspools, being emptied periodically,
and 748 Pan Closets, being emptied weekly.

I am indebted to **Mr. F. Bagley**, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., the Council's Surveyor, for the following report on Sewage Disposal Schemes, Housing, and Water. The Report is dated 5th April, 1957:—

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year 1956 small sewer extensions have been carried out at Castlecroft Road and Spring Hill Park in the Parish of Lower Penn and at Showell Lane in the Parish of Wombourn, to meet the needs of existing development.

Important progress has been made in regard to the extensions to Codsall and Wombourn Sewage Disposal Works, which has been urgently required for several years owing to overloading due to the large number of houses built in these Parishes for Wolverhampton Overspill and also private development. The Codsall extensions were commenced by Thomas Vale, Ltd., of Stourport, in November, 1956, at a cost of £79,730. Good progress is being made and, subject to unforeseen difficulties, it is hoped to complete the work by November, 1957. The Public Inquiry into the Wombourn Sewage Disposal Works extensions took place on the 6th February, 1957, and approval to proceed with the scheme is now awaited.

HOUSING

Council Houses completed during 1956 total 358, of which 289 were for Wolverhampton Overspill in accordance with the Agreement. In addition 357 houses were built privately making a total of 715 for the year. Since the commencement of the scheme for the erection of houses for Wolverhampton applicants 1,039 dwellings have been handed over to Wolverhampton nominated tenants.

WATER

The scheme for the provision of water mains at the higher levels for Four Ashes and Six Ashes in the Parishes of Bobbington and Enville at an estimated cost of £15,014 has now received the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and

permission to advertise for tenders has been obtained. The Bridgnorth R.D.C. from whom the water will be obtained in bulk state that their documents will be ready at the end of May and they propose inviting tenders about the middle of May. The preparation of the necessary contract documents is now proceeding for the Seisdon portion of the scheme in order, if possible, to advertise jointly.

Tenders have been received for the Lutley Water Main extension in the Parish of Enville and the tender of B. Hawkins, Ltd., has been accepted. Application has now been made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the necessary loan consent. During the year 3" dia. water main extensions have also been laid to a new Building Estate off Stone Lane, Kinver and to the New Fire Station at the Garden Fields, Kinver.

Section C (II). WATER

The Ministry of Health classify drinking water into:

				<i>Presumptive coliform count for 100 ml.</i>
Class One	..	Highly Satisfactory	..	Less than 1
Class Two	..	Satisfactory	.. ..	1 — 2
Class Three	..	Suspicious	.. ..	3 — 10
Class Four	..	Unsatisfactory	..	(More than 10)

In a year 50% of samples should come into Class 1.

80% of samples should come into Class 1 or 2

the remaining 20% of samples should not be below Class 3.

Chlorinated piped supplies ought all to come into Class 1. Several of our outlying farms are very definitely in Class 4 in regard to their inferior water supply, and they have to use water of a quality which would never be tolerated in a large town. New water supply schemes to aid such farms have been put to the appropriate Government Department for approval.

The Public Health Department has itself maintained an intensive series of bacteriological tests on the water supplies of the District. In addition the Water Undertakings have taken their own tests.

The water supply of the district, apart from small wells, is mainly provided by the following four water undertakings (reading from north to south of the Rural District):—

- (a) Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking, which supplies the Parishes of Codsall, Wrottesley, Wrottesley (Detached), Pattingham, Lower Penn and part of Wombourn.
- (b) Bilston Corporation Water Undertaking, which supplies the parishes of Trysull, Seisdon, Himley, Swindon and part of Wombourn.
- (c) South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, which supplies Kinver, Enville and Bobbington.
- (d) City of Birmingham Water Department, which supplies the Iverley portion of Kinver.

I am indebted to the respective Water Engineers of the above mentioned Water Authorities for the following reports:—

(a) **Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking**

- (1) The water supplied to the parishes concerned in your Rural District has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

- (2) The following is a summary of the results of bacteriological examinations of water going into distribution:—

	Number of Samples	Presumptive Coli-Aerogenes per 100 ml.			
		0	1-2	3-10	Over 10
Total number of Bacteriological examination taken	836	808	19	6	3
Percentage of samples taken ..		96.6	2.3	0.7	0.4

Of these 836 samples taken by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking in the year, 96.6% were “highly satisfactory”. Subsequent to treatment at the works, where necessary, there has been no known contamination of the supply. Including also water which was tested before and during treatment a total of 1,386 water samples were sent for bacteriological examination by the W.C.W.U.

- (3) There is no evidence of plumbo-solvent action by the water.
- (4) The water was treated by the W.C.W.U. at four of its five water works.
Chemical analyses were also made of the ten different sources of supply and the results were satisfactory.

(b) **South Staffordshire Waterworks Company**

- (1) The supply to those parts of the Rural District which are served by the South Staffs. Waterworks Co. has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. It comes from Ashwood and Kinver Pumping Stations.

(2)	Number of samples taken	Number entirely free from coliform bacteria
Ashwood raw water	103	100 were “highly satisfactory”
Ashwood chlorinated water ..	103	103 were “highly satisfactory”
Kinver chlorinated water ..	97	97 were “highly satisfactory”
Kinver Reservoir	96	94 were “highly satisfactory”

Chlorination is practised as a precautionary measure at both of the supplying stations. 19 samples from Ashwood Pumping Station and 94 from Kinver Pumping Station were examined chemically.

- (3) Water from the Supplying stations does not have a plumbo-solvent action.
- (4) In the case of possible contamination in the event of burst mains, cleaning out reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination is performed. Special apparatus and staff are available for this work. New mains are not brought into use until a sample of water from them is found to be satisfactory on testing.

(c) **City of Birmingham Water Department**

This water supplies about 50 houses in Iverley.

- (1) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.
- (2) Bacteriological examinations have been made by Birmingham of the water at Elan Aqueduct at Ludlow. Twenty out of twenty two samples were "highly satisfactory" at Ludlow. Two of the twenty two samples gave a "satisfactory" result. The Public Health Department of Seisdon Rural District have taken samples of this water periodically at Iverley. Seisdon Rural District Council operate regularly a small chlorinating plant just inside their boundary for the water supplied to these fifty houses at Iverley. At the time of writing the addition by ourselves of chlorine to the strength of 0.25 parts per million is producing a water which is "highly satisfactory" as shown by eleven tests out of twelve (taken at Iverley). One test gave an "unsatisfactory" result.
- (3) The raw Elan water has a slight plumbo-solvent action which is neutralised with hydrated lime before entering the Aqueduct.

(d) **Bilston Corporation Water Undertaking**

- (1) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory (a) in quantity (b) in quality.
- (2) Sixteen samples for bacteriological tests and one sample for chemical analysis were sent for testing

by Bilston Corporation Water Undertaking. The sixteen bacteriological tests were taken within the Seisdon R.D., six from the Bratch Waterworks, Wombourn and ten from Tomhill Pumping Station, Seisdon. All sixteen samples were believed to be in Class I (highly satisfactory).

- (3) The water supplied does not have plumbo-solvent action.
- (4) Chlorination is practised at the two sources of supply.
- (5) Four samples taken by our R.D. within Seisdon R.D. were "highly satisfactory".

(e) Further to the above mentioned 4 undertakings there are the private estates of **Patshull Hall**. The position here is as stated in the last Annual Report. Of seven samples, seven were "highly satisfactory".

(f) **Burnhill Green Village Borehole**

This is maintained by Seisdon Rural District Council. It supplies the western half of Burnhill Green Village. One sample of water was taken for bacteriological testing in 1955 and was "highly satisfactory". Chlorination is by a Wallace and Tiernan apparatus which is replenished every one to two weeks.

(g) **Enville and Bobbington.**

An area of approximately four square miles in the western portion of Enville and Bobbington Parishes is still entirely without a pure mains water supply. It awaits an extension of the Bridgnorth R.D.C. Water Scheme.

(h) **Enville**

An area North East of the Bridgnorth—Enville Road is likewise dependent on wells, having contaminated water and inadequate summer quantities of water. It is being considered for a minor extension of supply from South Staffs. Water Undertaking.

(i) **Swimming Pool**

A large swimming pool in Kinver parish is tested chemically and bacteriologically through the season by our Dept. It gave uniformly excellent results and conformed to the Ministry of Health standards. It was tested for PH value, residual chlorine content, and bacteriological test each week. Of 13 weekly samples, all were "highly satisfactory".

Section D

HOUSING

The representation of Category 5 Houses has gone ahead regularly through the year. Isolated country cottages dependent on a well and having an impure water supply have been generally regarded by their owners as not worth retaining even with the help of an Improvement Grant. The large distances involved in bringing piped mains water to such cottages involved relatively high cost.

Caravan homes and huts have in my experience, proved undesirable where a family has grown rapidly, where a family contains a handicapped child, and where an adult member of the family has Tuberculosis and lives in close contact with his or her children. On the other hand where there are old persons only, and where there is Tuberculosis in a childless married couple there is a certain usefulness in an adequate caravan.

All the requisitioned Ex-Army Huts at Wrottesley Park are regarded as being of Category 5 standard. As a hut becomes vacant, it is not then permitted to be occupied.

Section E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk Supplies

In October, 1954, Seisdon Rural District became a designated district in which only designated milk may be sold, *i.e.*, Pasteurised, Sterilized, and T.T. Milk.

In March, 1956, milk from an Enville Farm was found to contain tuberculosis bacteria. This farm was endeavouring to do its work with a grossly inadequate and polluted water supply. The matter of the water supply of this and three associated farms is being pursued, and the financial aspect investigated.

2. Slaughterhouses and Meat Supplies.

The R.D.C. adopted the Model Bye Laws of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in relation to Private Slaughterhouses (June, 1956).

The Chairman (Mr. G. W. Munday, J.P.) spoke at the Annual Meeting of the R.D.C's. Association in 1956, on the need for compulsory staining or sterilization of meat unfit for human consumption.

Mr. H. F. Robinson spends approximately 65–75% of his time on the inspection of meat at slaughterhouses.

3. Ice Cream

Ice cream being sold in the same shops as green groceries has been accepted by the P.H.C. only in so far as it is completely pre-wrapped ice cream. It must be prepared elsewhere by an officially inspected firm, and it must not be subject to division on the shop counter into smaller portions. This rule has been applied to two shop premises within the R.D.

4. Rural Inn

A rural Inn with a polluted water supply has been investigated. The hot water system of the inn results in an uncertain sterilization of the water. The extension of a main water supply from Bridgnorth R.D. to the western parts of Bobbington is now awaited and is expected within the next two years. The extension of supply will then apply to this Inn.

Section F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER

12 cases were notified, as against 13 last year. There were no deaths.

WHOOPIING COUGH

			<i>Incidence</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
1951—131 cases	..	..
1952—159	..	..	7.09 per 1,000	1
1953—78	..	..	3.3 „ „	0
1954—120	..	..	4.9 „ „	0
1955—31	..	..	1.2 „ „	0
1956—21	..	..	0.75 „ „	0

Immunisation against Whooping Cough is available at Infant Welfare Clinics throughout the Rural District, and at the General Practitioners' Surgeries.

A stock of Whooping Cough vaccine is held at the Council Offices for distribution.

Numbers of children immunised against Whooping Cough have been as follows:—

			<i>Reinforcement Immunisation</i>
1953	Primary Immunisation	.. 20	—
1954	Primary Immunisation	.. 131	—
1955	Primary Immunisation	.. 139	24
1956	Primary Immunisation	.. 183	9

MEASLES

	<i>Incidence</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
110 cases notified in 1952	0
423 cases notified in 1953	0
12 cases notified in 1954	0
418 cases notified in 1955	1
21 cases notified in 1956	0

DIPHTHERIA

No case of Diphtheria occurred in the year. There has not been one case of Diphtheria reported in Seisdon R.D. in the whole of the last six years. Immunisation against Diphtheria is available at Clinics throughout the Rural District, and also at the General Practitioners' Surgeries.

Numbers of children immunised against Diphtheria have been as follows:—

	Age	1953	1954	1955	1956
Primary Immunisation ..	0- 4	169	226	184	371
Primary Immunisation ..	5-14	65	72	57	68
Reinforcement Immunisation	0- 4	11	} 455	7	10
Reinforcement Immunisation	5-14	208		405	315
TOTAL		453	753	653	764

Newspaper advertisements were made in March, 1956, to give notice of times and places at which immunisation against Diphtheria is available at Clinics within the R.D. Posters advising on Diphtheria immunisation were also distributed to Schools and to Parish Councils, etc.

INFANTILE PARALYSIS

One case occurred as follows:—

- | | | | | | |
|----|--------|----------|--------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. | 9/8/56 | Wombourn | Female | Age
4 years | Paralytic, confirmed |
|----|--------|----------|--------|----------------|----------------------|

The case was moderate to severe in degree, and progressed well after the initial illness.

During 18 years of available records there have been 18 cases of Poliomyelitis, and no deaths.

FOOD POISONING—SALMONELLA INFECTION

Cases as follows:—

- | | | | | | |
|----|---------|------------|--------|----------|-------------------------|
| 1. | 4/5/56 | Swindon | Female | 7 years | Salmonella Newport |
| 2. | 17/7/56 | Pattingham | Male | 62 years | Salmonella typhi-murium |
| 3. | 30/7/56 | Pattingham | Female | 38 years | Salmonella typhi-murium |

DYSENTERY

Cases as follows:—

- | | | | | | |
|----|---------|----------|--------|----------|-----------------|
| 1. | 24/2/56 | Kinver | Male | 6 years | Sonne Dysentery |
| 2. | 23/3/56 | Wombourn | Female | 34 years | „ „ |
| 3. | 23/3/56 | Wombourn | Male | 9 years | „ „ |
| 4. | 23/3/56 | Wombourn | Male | 5 years | „ „ |

CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL

The total number of cases admitted to Hospital for Infectious Disease was 5.

- 1 case Pneumonia to Moxley Hospital.
- 3 cases Scarlet Fever to Stallings Lane Hospital.
- 1 case Infantile Paralysis to Wolverhampton Isolation Hospital.

SWABS & SPECIMENS submitted to the Public Health Laboratory:

Nose and Throat	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sputa	..	..	..	..	..	58
Faeces	..	..	..	..	..	55
Ear Discharge	..	..	..	..	..	1

The great majority of the sputa were submitted by the Tuberculosis Officer.

GENERAL MEASURES

School notifications of infectious disease are carefully scrutinised and made prompt use of for the purpose of guidance and location.

Terminal disinfection of premises and articles by means of formaldehyde lamps and disinfectant fluids is carried out in necessary cases.

Section G

TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis—Mass X-Ray Survey

A special Mass X-Ray Survey of the Seisdon R.D. was carried out in July, 1956, using four centres of population. The results were reported in detail to the P.H.C. in October, 1956. Industrial premises were associated with the Survey and transport was provided from out-lying villages. The results were as follows:—

1,847 persons were X-Rayed.

44 persons were recalled for large X-Rays.

40 persons were found to have abnormalities on these full size X-Rays.

The Register of Tuberculosis cases has been looked at closely in the last year and is an accurate indication of the notifications of this disease in Seisdon R.D.

Seventeen people suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis of the lung moved into houses in Seisdon R.D. during the year. This is one more than the number of new cases originating in the R.D. itself. Many of these cases are quiescent, and most of them come from the Black Country.

The Medical Officer of Health visits all cases where environmental home conditions are poor, and investigation and advice as appropriate is given. Appreciation is here recorded of the co-operation and help given by the Housing Committee of Seisdon Rural District Council in giving priority to the housing recommendations of the M.O.H. in cases of Tuberculosis.

Mass X-Ray of the secondary schools is arranged by the County M.O.H. in co-operation with the Chest Physicians. Mass X-Ray is available (without previous appointment) at New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton every Monday morning at 9.30 a.m. and at Priory Road, Dudley on certain Friday afternoons.

Respiratory Tuberculosis

The average annual case fatality (per 100 new cases occurring):

In 1916–1920 in England and Wales was	60.2
In 1936–1940	52.8
In 1941–1945	43.4
In 1952	19.4
In 1954 In Seisdon was	12.5
In 1955 In Seisdon was	Nil
In 1956 In Seisdon was	22.2

Total Number of Cases on Register

	1954	At 31/12/1955	At 31/12/1956
Pulmonary—Male	67	75	88
Pulmonary—Female	49	55	63
Non-Pulmonary—Male	11	10	9
Non-Pulmonary—Female	13	9	11
TOTAL	140	149	171
Number for 1,000 population (Seisdon)	5.74	5.68	6.1
Average for Staffs. C.C. ..	9.6	9.7	
Number of Deaths of Seisdon Residents	1	Nil	4

Localisation of Tuberculosis in New Cases Notified in 1956

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Lungs	12	4	16
Bone, Lumbar Spine ..	—	1	1
Meninges	—	1	1
	—	—	—
	12	6	18
	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				TRANSFERS INTO R.D.C.				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 5 years ..				1								
5—10 " ..				1								
10—15 " ..												
15—20 " ..	1											
20—25 " ..		1			1	3						
25—30 " ..	3	1			1	2	1					
30—35 " ..		2			3	4				1		
35—40 " ..	1								1			
40—45 " ..	2											
45—50 " ..	1											
50—55 " ..	1				1				1			
55—60 " ..	1											
60—65 " ..	1					1			1			
65 years and over	1					1						
TOTALS FOR 1956	12	4	—	2	6	11	1	—	3	1	—	—
TOTALS FOR 1954	M and F 8		M and F 1		M and F 16		M and F 0		M and F 1		M and F 0	
TOTALS FOR 1955	13		3		16		0		0		0	
TOTALS FOR 1956	16		2		17		1		4		0	

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR 1956

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Seisdon Rural District Council:*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my sixteenth Annual Report, that for the year 1956 upon the work carried out by my Department.

I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help and consideration in the carrying out of my duties, to Dr. Kennedy and other Officials of the Council for their co-operation, and to Mr. Robinson and Mr. Nally for their unfailing and willing assistance at all times.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. V. R. LEE,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

June, 1957.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

Total Inspections	5,697
Number of complaints received	736
Preliminary Notices served	76
Statutory Notices served	132
Preliminary Notices complied	74
Statutory Notices complied	13

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS MADE

Housing

Houses inspected—Primary	290
—Re-inspections	732
Overcrowding	7

Factories

Factories—Mechanical Power	56
—No Mechanical Power	32

Meat and Food Inspections

Meat and Food Inspections	541
Bakehouses	2
Food Premises	298
Slaughterhouses	201
Shops—Meat	98
—Fish	48
—General	236
Sampling—Water	76
—Ice Cream	138
—Miscellaneous	37

Other Routine Visits of Inspection

Accumulations	76
Camping Grounds	98
Drainage	496
Infectious Diseases	79
Miscellaneous	72
Petroleum	62
Piggeries	30
Rats and Mice (Destruction and other Pest Control)	716
Refuse Receptacles	159
Sampling	251
Smoke	56

Tents, Vans, Sheds	..	..	..	..	389
Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	6
Farms	..	..	..	..	5
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	36
Animals Kept	..	..	..	..	6
Cleansing	..	..	..	..	368

COMPLAINTS

Seven hundred and thirty-six complaints were received by the Department during the year. They concern the following:—

Housing defects	..	106	Refuse Collection	..	110
Rats and Mice	..	216	Other Pests	..	18
Drainage Defects	..	256	Miscellaneous	..	30

Only the complaints relating to Housing Defects required the service of Notices; the remainder were remedied by one or other of the services employed or provided by the Council.

HOUSING

105 notices were served during the year, 65 preliminary notices and 40 statutory notices. These refer to repair notices and do not include the 82 notices served in connection with the consideration of houses suitable for demolition.

The houses were sited, by parishes, as follows:—

Bobbington	..	..	11	Pattingham	..	..	4
Codsall	..	..	8	Seisdon and Trysull	..	..	1
Enville	..	..	5	Swindon	..	..	2
Himley	..	..	22	Wombourn	..	..	24
Kinver	..	..	15	Wrottesley	..	..	9
Lower Penn	..	..	4				

These notices refer to the Housing and Public Health defects enumerated on page 35.

As noted in an earlier part of the Report 63 notices were complied with during the year (51 preliminary, 12 statutory). These concerned the housing, etc., repairs noted on page 36.

The premises involved were sited as follows (preliminary notices) :—

Bobbington	..	..	7	Lower Penn	..	..	2
Codsall	..	..	12	Pattingham	..	..	1
Enville	..	..	4	Seisdon and Trysull	..	..	2
Himley	..	..	2	Swindon	..	..	1
Kinver	..	..	16	Wombourn	..	..	11
				Wrottesley	..	..	1

DEFECTS—INTERNAL

Walls, damp, defective, perished plaster	9
Ceilings, defective and perished plaster	9
Windows, defective frames, sashes, casements ..	24
Doors, defective woodwork, frames	5
Floors, defective, dangerous	4
Stairs, defective treads or risers, no handrail ..	1
Fireplaces, defective or dilapidated	7
Water supply, burst pipes	14
Sinks, defective waste-pipes	18
Dampness	6
Defective hot water system	5

DEFECTS—EXTERNAL

Walls, defective, perished jointing, brickwork decayed	13
Defective flashings and verges	8
Defective roofs	14
Defective chimneys	7
Defective guttering	17
Defective external woodwork	3
Defective drainage	5
Gully surrounds	11
Defective w.c. pedestals	14
Defective closets	7
Defective pans	2
Dustbins defective	16
Conversion to water closets	24
Conversions—Privy to pans	2
Accumulations	8

REPAIRS—INTERNAL

Walls, replastered or pointed	..	..	..	12
Ceilings, repaired, replastered	..	..	..	9
Windows repaired or provided	..	..	..	19
Doors, renewed or repaired	..	..	..	2
Floors repaired	..	..	..	7
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	..	..	..	5
Water supply, burst pipes	..	..	..	12
Hot water cisterns repaired	..	..	..	4
Sinks, etc., provided or repaired	..	..	..	16
Stairs repaired, handrails provided	..	..	..	4
Dampness remedied	..	..	..	7

REPAIRS EXTERNAL

Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	16
Chimney stacks repaired	..	..	..	..	..	6
Gutters repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	9
Walls repaired, repointed, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	11
Water closets provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	26
Dustbins provided	..	..	..	..	..	14
Drainage defects	..	..	..	..	..	4
Gully surrounds repaired	..	..	..	..	..	9
Privy middens abolished	..	..	..	..	..	2
Pans provided	..	..	..	..	..	2
Conversions—pans to water closets	..	..	..	..	..	19
Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	..	1

Housing Act, 1936, Section 11

During the year our efforts continued to deal with houses incapable of repair at a reasonable expense.

53 houses were dealt with as follows:—

27 demolition orders were made, 20 undertakings accepted that the houses would not be relet until made fit and the undertakings cancelled, and 6 closing orders.

It is indicative of the improvement in the Housing situation that we are now in a position to deal with more and more houses each year. In 1951, 6 houses; 1952, 6 houses; 1953, 16 houses; 1954, 29 houses; 1955, 39 houses, and in 1956, 53 houses.

The properties concerned were sited in the following Parishes:—

Bobbington	3	Seisdon and Trysull	3
Codsall	5	Swindon	9
Enville	9	Wombourn	6
Kinver	14	Wrottesley	2
Pattingham	2		

The addresses in the order in which they were dealt with:—

1 and 2, White Cottages, Nurton Bank, Pattingham.
 126, High Street, Kinver.
 127, High Street, Kinver.
 9, Stone Lane, Kinver.
 10, Stone Lane, Kinver.
 50, High Street, Kinver.
 98, High Street, Kinver.
 2, Wooden Structures, rear of 16, Stone Lane, Kinver.
 Holy Austin Rock House, Kinver.
 Rose Villa, Sleepy Valley, Kingsford Lane, Kinver.
 Rock View, Sleepy Valley, Kingsford Lane, Kinver.
 The Nest, Prestwood Road, Stourton, Kinver.
 'Bus Body, Hinksford Camping Sites, Hinksford.
 1-6, Jacksons Buildings, Station Road, Wombourn.
 1/2/3, Three Dwellings, Bobbington.
 2 Cottages, New House Bank, Enville.
 2 Cottages, Blundies Lane, Enville.
 The Three Cottages, Seisdon Common.
 1-6, Church Road, Swindon.
 3 Cottages, High Street, Swindon.
 1-5, Slate Lane, Codsall.
 1-5, Almshouses, Enville.
 "Hazeldean", Hinksford.
 2, Slings Cottages, Perton.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

A total of 541 visits were made in connection with the inspection of meat and other foods.

The following items were, after inspection found to be unsound, unwholesome or unfit for human consumption:—

			<i>tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qtrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
11,950 tins of canned meat	..		14	5	—	—
2 tins tomatoes	..	..	—	—	—	2
3 tins of fruit	..	..	—	—	—	3

The majority of the canned meat condemned went for animal feeding.

Meat Inspection

There are four licenced private slaughterhouses in the Seisdon Rural District. These are situated in the parishes of Codsall, Kinver, Pattingham and Wrottesley. With the exception of the slaughterhouse at Pattingham, the other three slaughterhouses only provide slaughtering facilities for their own particular Butchers' shops.

The following table gives the number of animals slaughtered and percentages of numbers affected with disease:—

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	*Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1278	—	131	4916	1043	—
Number inspected ..	1256	—	131	4850	1043	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcasses condemned	6	—	2	3	4	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	308	—	—	456	129	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	24.5	—	1.5	9.4	12.3	—
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	5	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	140	—	—	—	30	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	11.1	—	—	—	2.8	—
Cysticercosis:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and Totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

* No individual information except in cases given.

ICE CREAM

During the year under review 138 visits were paid to the 64 premises then storing ice cream for sale.

At the time of visit temperature tests were frequently carried out to ensure that the temperature of the refrigerator was being kept within the requirements of the Ice Cream Regulations (*i.e.*, that the product must be kept at a temperature below 28° Fah.). In every case conditions were satisfactory.

17 samples were taken for bacteriological examination. Results were as follows:—

GRADES				Total
1	2	3	4	
16	1	—	—	17

Analysed according to manufacturers:—

Manufac- turer	No. of Retailers selling in this area	Grade				Total
		1	2	3	4	
“A”	30	7	—	—	—	7
“B”	28	8	1	—	—	9
“C”	6	1	—	—	—	1
	64	16	1	—	—	17

The Laboratory suggestions as to the interpretation of results are given below:—

“Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice cream it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results of any single sample. Judgment should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80% into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20% into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4”.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES OF MILK TAKEN IN THE

RURAL DISTRICT DURING 1956

	No. of Samples	Phenol- pthalein Test		Phos- phatase Test		Turbidity Test		Methy- lene Blue Test		Tubercle- bacilli Test	
		Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pass	Fail	Pos.	Neg.
Tuberculin Tested..	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	3
T.T. Farm Bottled..	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	3	—	4
T.T. Pasteurised ..	57	—	—	—	57	—	—	57	—	—	—
Pasteurised ..	49	—	—	1	48	—	—	49	—	—	—
Sterilised ..	38	—	—	—	—	—	38	—	—	—	—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

We are indebted to the County Public Health Department for the following information regarding samples taken for examination during 1956.

Milk

Milk Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	17
Milk Sterilised	..	..	..	..	25
Milk T.T.	..	..	..	..	14
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	17
Milk T.T. Pasteurised Channel Island	..				8
					<hr/>
					81
					<hr/>
Number of samples taken	..	..			81
Number of samples genuine	..	..			79
Number of samples adulterated		..			2

General Foods

Number of samples taken	..	..	39
Number of samples genuine	..	..	37
Number of samples adulterated		..	2

Classification of General Foods

Cayenne Pepper	Pink Salmon
Ground Almonds	Ice Cream Powder
Cheddar Cheese (2 samples)	Genuine Sherbet
Lemon Curd (2 samples)	Ground White Pepper
Processed Cheese	Lemon Kali
Prunes	Liquid Fruit Pectin
Garden Peas	Seville Marmalade
Salad Cream	Ham and Veal Loaf
Crab Meat	Milk Chocolate with Hazelnuts
Irish Stew	and Raisins
Ice Cream (2 samples)	Assorted Chocolate Crunch
Flour	Pork Sausage cont. pres.
Stewed Steak	Black Pudding
Ground Nutmeg	Stuffed Pork Roll
Cream of Tartar	Shredded Beef Suet
Full Cream Dutch Cheese	Liquorice Allsorts
Camembert Cheese	Digestive Biscuits
Button Mushrooms	Fig Biscuits
	Mint Sweets

Particulars of Adulterated Samples

- (1) Sterilised Milk—contains at least 4.5% of added water.
- (2) T.T. Pasteurised Milk—7.3% deficient in fat.
- (3) Processed Cheese—Formal—Label calculated to mislead as to the quality of the sample.
- (4) Ice Cream—Formal—8.0% deficient of the minimum proportion of fat.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

During the year under review 98 visits were made to Camping Grounds and 389 to individual moveable dwellings.

I have continued the policy whereby all applicants for Public Health Act Licences are referred, first, to the Surveyor's Department to obtain Planning Approval. This, it will be appreciated, has resulted in far fewer applications coming before the Public Health Committee. When all services are available it may be difficult to refuse a Licence on Public Health grounds, whereas, for Planning reasons, it may be quite undesirable to have a caravan, or Camping Ground, on a particular site.

I am glad to report that we had no trouble last year from the nomadic individual.

PEST CONTROL

The following table shows the work carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator:—

Type of Premises	No. of visits	Estimated kill	Bodies found
Business ..	11	38	13
Private ..	340	379	130
Council ..	326	415	130
TOTAL ..	677	832	273

In addition to the above, 454 premises were visited on survey.

The Council properties concerned are the five sewage works and four tips in operation during the year. These are all treated at regular intervals, emphasis being, of course, on keeping the refuse tips as clear as possible. Although, on occasions, infestations shewed signs of developing, the position never became serious and prompt action resulted in the situation being reduced to minor proportions. We are fortunate that our largest tip (Wombourn) is considerably removed from centres of human habitation; paradoxically, this tip has caused us less concern than the others. Undoubtedly the prompt and efficient covering over refuse with soil helps the rodent operative in revealing early signs of disturbance.

As, for many years now, no infestations have been found in the Council's sewers, we are allowed to dispense with baiting and treatment of all sewers in the area—10% of the manholes being lifted and bait deposited. This work was carried out last year in the early autumn and gave completely negative results. This is very satisfactory as, apart from shewing the efficiency of the overground work in reducing the rat population, the work involved in treating some seven or eight hundred manholes would be a task of some magnitude.

No problems have arisen at the refuse tips in relation to crickets; the fly situation has never developed seriously since our tips are not near occupied dwellings and prompt coverage does have an effect in reducing the number of flies. Tip dressing has been carried out on an experimental scale with satisfactory results.

Your operative has dealt with a few infestations of moles and, at the appropriate season, with wasps nests.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

For the benefit of the statistician the following table is of interest:—

Number of cesspools emptied	..	..	1,739
Number of dustbins emptied	..	..	335,361
Number of pans emptied	..	..	39,781
Number of loads (all materials)	..	..	7,303

Salvage

Waste paper was collected to the amount of $3\frac{3}{4}$ tons, producing a sum of £29.

Scrap metal and rags to a total of $17\frac{1}{2}$ tons produced £77.

General

Sickness has caused some anxiety. During the year 429 man-days were lost due to sickness of varying kind; 54 days were lost due to injury, and 375 to actual illness—the latter in part consisting of such occupational risks as bronchitis, influenza, asthma, etc.

At the end of the year under review the Council were operating, on the Cleansing Service the following vehicles:—

<i>First registered</i>		
2 Dennis Paxits	18 cubic yards	10/5/54 & 30/1/56
1 Dennis Side Loader	11 cubic yards	12/1/52
2 Morris Commercials	7 cubic yards	2/12/46 & 27/7/48
1 Karrier Cesspool Emptier	650 gallons	9/5/49
1 Dennis Pail Emptier	800 gallons	30/1/56
1 Mechanical Shovel	.. .. .	7/4/52
1 Morris Commercial (Spare Vehicle)	7 cubic yards	22/12/47

In addition, the contractor Mr. White, who operates in part of the Codsall area had a 4 cubic yard vehicle.

The complement of men consisted of 9 drivers and 28 men as loaders, and one man engaged on tip work.

Bin Scheme

In my last Report I referred to the Bin Scheme which came into operation during 1954. The scheme continues to operate with success 436 bins being supplied during the year. It should be noted that under this Scheme payment of seven shillings and sixpence per house per annum ensures that when the bin is worn out a new one is supplied by the Council.

In addition, during the year, a further 94 dustbins, and 26 pans, were supplied to various properties in the area, on request and without the service of notice.

Litter

Our efforts to abate the litter nuisance were continued during the year and baskets were installed at strategic points particularly in the Kinver area. Is it a commentary on the way of life of certain visitors to our district to report that frequently baskets are less than half full whilst litter still remains scattered on the ground?

The Council employ one or two pensioners who go round portions of the area collecting litter on one or two days a week. This has proved effective, particularly on Highgate, Enville and Kingswood Commons.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

This table is enclosed by request of the Ministry of Labour and National Service to indicate to Medical Officers of Health the prescribed particulars which are required by Section 128 (3) to be furnished in their annual reports with respect to matters under Part I and Part VIII of the Acts which are administered by the District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1956 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SEISDON IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	No. of		Occupiers prosecuted
		In-spections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	32	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies (2) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement Order), 1938 ..	21	56	—	—
(b) others	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding out workers)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	28	88	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. In- spector	By H.M. In- spector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ..					
Overcrowding (S.2.) ..					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.) ..					
Inadequate Ven- tilation (S.4.) ..					
Ineffective drain- age of floors (S.6.) ..					
Sanitary Conve- niences (S.7.) ..					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate sexes ..					
Other offences (not including offences relat- ing to Outwork.	2	2			
TOTAL ..	3	3	—	—	—

